

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05
SOE-02 SS-15 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5384

UNCLAS TOKYO 2708

FOR OES/APT/SA: INR/OIL

DEPT PASS TO NASA HQ, CODE I

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, JA
SUBJECT: LAUNCH OF ISS-B SATELLITE; NAMED UME NIGO

REF: TOKYO 293

1. FLAWLESS LAUNCH OF ISS-B SATELLITE ABOARD N LAUNCH VEHICLE
OCCURRED PRECISELY ON SCHEDULE AT 1300 HRS, FEB. 16, JST.
LAUNCH WAS WITNESSED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF US, FRENCH, INDIAN,
SOVIET, GDR, CANADIAN, UK PRC, HUNGARIAN, INDONESIAN, AND
DUTCH EMBASSIES. AMBASSADOR GONSALVES AND WIFE REPRESENTED
INDIAN EMBASSY. CHEN KANG, COUNSELLOR, AND WU MING-LIEN,
THIRD SECRETARY, REPRESENTED CHINESE EMBASSY. OTHER FOREIGNERS
PRESENT WERE SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS AND ATTACHES.

2. IT WAS ALSO INTERESTING THAT FOR FIRST TIME, MEMBERS FROM
MINORITY PARTIES IN DIET WERE INVITED TO NASDA LAUNCH. OF
FIVE DIET MEMBERS PRESENT, ONE WAS FROM LDP, ONE FROM JCP,
TWO FROM KOMEITO, AND ONE FROM JSP.

3. VISITORS WERE GIVEN TOURS OF ASDA TRACKING,
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CONTROL, LAUNCH, AND TEST FACILITIES BEFORE AND AFTER
LAUNCH ITSELF. NASDA BRIEFERS MADE CLEAR THAT JAPANESE
PROGRAM WAS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON U.S. TECHNOLOGY,
SUPERVISORY ASSISTANCE, AND WORLD-WIDE TRACKING. TO
SURPRISE OF AMERICAN REP, FOREIGN OBSERVERS APPEARED
TO HAVE BEEN UNAWARE PREVIOUSLY THAT THIS WAS SO. THEY
ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP.

4. TECHNICALLY ORIENTED VISITORS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY MODERN FACILITIES, THEIR RLATIVE COMPACTNESS AND SMPLICITY, AND CLOSE-KNIT JAPANESE ORGANIZATION.

5. ONCE ACHIEVEMENT OF ORBIT WAS VERIFIED (PERIGEE AND APOGEE BOTH ABOUT 1000 KM, INCLINATION 70 DEGREES), ISS-B WAS RENAMED UME NIGO, OR APRICOT NO. 2, RECALLING THAT FIRST ISS SATELLITE, CALLED UME, SUFFERED INTERNAL POWER FAILURE AFTER ONE MONTH IN ORBIT. AS IN PREVIOUS NASDA LAUNCHES, NEWSPAPERS GAVE ONLY MODEST COVERAGE TO LAUNCH.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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